

**Denholme
Urban District Council**

**Annual Report
1948**

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Denholme Urban Sanitary District

J. BATTERSBY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

INTRODUCTION.

Town Hall,
Shipley,
September, 1949.

To the Members of the Health Committee of the Denholme Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for 1948 on the health and sanitary circumstances of Denholme.

The Divisional Health Scheme operated for its first complete year, although July 5th was the inaugural date of the National Health Service Act.

Statistics.

As was expected the birth rate declined from 21.68 in the previous year to 18.65. The crude death rate, 12.30, also showed a sharp decline (16.07 in 1947). I have pleasure in recording a nil return for both maternal deaths and infant mortality.

Infectious Disease.

Measles was epidemic in Summer, a total of 70 cases being notified for the year. The only other prevalent infection was Pneumonia—8 cases, and 2 cases proved fatal.

Health Provisions.

Denholme is an isolated community without a resident Doctor. The present Clinic provides a fairly satisfactory service fortnightly for the purposes of Maternity and Child Welfare. The urgent need is for a small Health Centre providing accommodation for Doctors' consultations, M. and C.W. work and School Medical and Dental Services. Until this is forthcoming the services must needs remain inadequate and fail to meet the increasing demand subsequent to the passing of the Act.

The establishment of a Home Help Service proves very difficult, confronted as we are with a high demand for women in industry.

Housing.

Slow but steady progress was recorded. Overcrowding remains the greatest single deterrent to further progress in Public Health.

I am indebted to the Clerk of the Council for assistance rendered and to Mr. Plummer, the Sanitary Inspector, for help in furnishing returns for the year.

Yours faithfully,

J. BATTERSBY.

**HEALTH, HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING
COMMITTEE.**

W. H. NICHOLSON, J.P. (Chairman).

F. W. DELVES (Vice-Chairman).

W. G. FOSTER, J.P.

J. PICKLES.

A. S. GOODYEAR.

L. DRIVER.

L. BROOKSBANK.

J. WHITAKER.

J. E. ROBINSON.

OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health :

JOHN BATTERSBY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

WM. H. PLUMMER, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Chief Clerk :

F. G. FALKINGHAM, D.P.A.

DENHOLME URBAN DISTRICT.

Census, 1931.

Area	....	....	....	....	2,536 acres
Population	....	....	....	....	2,662

Summary, 1948, and comparison with previous year.

					1947	1948
Area in acres	....	....	....	....	2,536	2,536
Population	....	....	....	....	2,490	2,520
Net estimated product 1d. rate				....	£53	£52 5 2
Rateable value	....	....	....	....	£13,735	£13,572
Estimated number of dwellinghouses				....	928	944

Births.

Live Births	....	....	....	....	54	47
1948—Legitimate: Male, 19; Female, 22.						
Illegitimate: Male, 1; Female, 5.						
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	....	....	....	....	21.68	18.65
Still Births	....	....	....	....	Nil	Nil
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	....	....	....	....	Nil	Nil

Deaths.

Number of Deaths	....	....	....	....	40	31
1948—Males, 20; Females, 11.						
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	....	....	....	....	16.07	12.30
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	....	....	....	....	Nil	Nil
Deaths from puerperal sepsis	....	....	....	....	Nil	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births					Nil	Nil
Deaths from other puerperal causes	....	....	....	....	Nil	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births					Nil	Nil

	1947	1948
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	3	Nil
RATE { All infants per 1,000 live births	55.55	Nil
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	58.82	Nil
{ Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	6	3
Death rate from cancer per 1,000 of estimated resident population	2.40	1.19
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1	Nil
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	Nil	Nil
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	Nil
Deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis	Nil	2
Death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis per 1,000 of estimated resident population	Nil	0.79
Deaths from all forms of tuberculosis	1	2
Death rate from all forms of tuberculosis per 1,000 of estimated resident population	0.40	0.79
Percentage of deaths occurring in Institutions, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, etc.	15.00	19.35
Percentage of births occurring in Institutions, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, etc.	44.44	55.32

No of Deaths in 1947	DEATHS 1948	Male	Female	All Persons	% of Total Deaths	Death Rate per 1000 Inhabitants
40	All causes	20	11	31	100	12.30
—	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—
1	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—
—	Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—
—	Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—
—	Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
—	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1	2	6.45	0.79
1	Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
—	Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—
—	Influenza	—	—	—	—	—
1	Measles	—	—	—	—	—
—	Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-enceph.	—	—	—	—	—
—	Acute infective Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—
—	Cancer of B. Cav. and œsoph. (M), Uterus (F)	—	—	—	—	—
1	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—	1	3.23	0.40
1	Cancer of Breast	—	1	1	3.23	0.40
4	Cancer of all other sites	1	—	1	3.23	0.40
—	Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—
4	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	2	2	4	12.90	1.58
16	Heart Disease	7	4	11	35.48	4.37
1	Other diseases of Circulatory System	—	—	—	—	—
1	Bronchitis	2	—	2	6.45	0.79
1	Pneumonia	2	—	2	6.45	0.79
1	Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—	1	3.23	0.40
—	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—
1	Diarrhœa under 2 years	—	—	—	—	—
—	Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	—
—	Other Digestive Diseases	2	—	2	6.45	0.79
2	Nephritis	—	—	—	—	—
—	Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—
—	Other Maternal causes	—	—	—	—	—
—	Premature Birth	—	—	—	—	—
—	Congen. Mal., Birth Inj., Infant., Dis.	—	—	—	—	—
1	Suicide	—	—	—	—	—
—	Road Traffic Accidents	—	—	—	—	—
—	Other violent causes	—	1	1	3.23	0.40
3	All other causes	1	2	3	9.67	1.19

Birth-rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1948 for

England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns, and for Denholme Urban District.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Denholme
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
Births—					
Live	17.9†	20.0	19.2	20.1	18.65
Still	0.42†	0.52	0.43	0.39	0.00
Deaths—					
All Causes	10.8†	11.6	10.7	11.6	12.30
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Influenza	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63	0.79
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54	0.79
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age	34†	39	32	31	0.00
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
Notifications—					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37	1.59
Whooping Cough	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13	0.40
Diphtheria	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.00
Erysipelas	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22	0.79
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17	27.78
Pneumonia	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57	3.17
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.00
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still).					
Notifications					
Puerperal Fever { Puerperal Pyrexia }	6.89	8.90	4.71	7.34§	0.00
England and Wales 1.02					
Denholme 0.00					
Mortality per million women, age 15-45.					
England and Wales 13					
Denholme Nil					
Maternal Mortality					
Abortion					

‡1,000 related births.

†Rates per 1,000 total population.

§In London Puerperal Fever alone was 0.61.

Social Conditions.

Denholme is an isolated town with an elevation of about 1,000 ft. above mean sea level and 7 miles distant from Halifax, Keighley and Bradford to the North, South and West respectively. The environs are rural; road gradients steep, and the area forms a natural water gathering ground with numerous reservoirs. The compact township is a centre of industrial and shopping activity and roads radiate and provide access to neighbouring large towns. The density of population is approximately one person per acre.

The basic industry is spinning, weaving and the manufacture of worsteds, knitting wools and yarns. Other industries include silk weaving, joinery and leather production, stone quarrying and saw mills. Forty farms produce milk and rear cattle.

The social life of the district provides educational, cultural and recreational amenities. Churches are numerous and form active centres of community life. There are two schools, with accommodation for 200 pupils. The Mechanics Institute, Picture House and play-grounds provide diversions for the population. Relative isolation promotes a hardy, independent spirit, and at the same time fuses communal interests.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

A scheme of divisional administration for the area has been instituted. The Medical Officer of Health of the Sanitary District holds a similar appointment for Shipley, Bingley and Baildon, and is Divisional Medical Officer for the County area composed of these Sanitary Authorities. Generally speaking, environmental sanitation remains the responsibility of the Urban District and major Services such as Maternity and Child Welfare and the School Medical Service are controlled by the County Council.

Denholme Clinic held fortnightly sessions on a Wednesday afternoon at the Methodist Chapel, attended by a Doctor and Health Visitor, with the valuable assistance of voluntary workers. Facilities were provided for the care of expectant and nursing mothers, infants and school children, and a wide range of infant foods were provided under recommendation of the Medical Officer.

Hospital Services. These were not materially affected by the transfer of the Hospitals to the Regional Board on the 5th July. Surgical and medical cases continue to be admitted to General Hospitals in Bradford, Halifax and Keighley. Infectious disease cases are sent to Morton Banks Hospital and Maternity cases to Halifax, Keighley, Bradford and County Homes. Provisions are made for convalescence through the Divisional Medical Officer.

Home Nursing. The scheme is now administered under Part III of the National Health Service Act. The District Nurse as heretofore attends the sick, infirm and aged. Being resident in Denholme, Nurse is available for emergencies, which is necessary since there is no resident Doctor. In her work, however, she continues to act under the direction of the General Practitioner in each case.

District Midwifery. The District Nurse is also District Midwife. Arrangements have been made that she be provided with a car, which expedites her journey in emergency, and also increases the amount of work that she can undertake. Gas and Air Analgesia apparatus was made available for her, and the Nurse has been trained in administration of the Analgesia.

Home Helps. Some difficulty was encountered in providing domestic help. Every effort is being made to procure suitable women recruits. Difficulty arises from the fact that women tend to be recruited to industry.

Ambulance Service. (a) Infectious cases are transported by the Ambulance from Morton Banks Hospital, Keighley.

(b) General and Accident Cases. The District is served by St. John's Ambulance from Bradford and emergency calls for road accidents from Keighley.

Laboratory Services. Arrangements were completed for the examination of all types of pathological and bacteriological specimens at the Regional Laboratory, Bradford. This includes throat and nose swabs, sputum, faeces and blood taken from individual patients, and Public Health examination of drinking water, milk, ice cream and other foodstuffs. Field work by the

Director of the Laboratory and the Medical Officer of Health will be conducted as necessary. Prophylactic reagents, for instance diphtheria toxoid, vaccine lymph, etc., will be distributed. The proximity of the Laboratory will expedite reports and necessary action.

Mortuary. The Council have previously arranged with Shipley Urban District Council for the use of their Mortuary at Shipley, and if necessary postmortems are conducted there.

Infectious Disease.

85 cases were notified during the year, excluding Tuberculosis. Measles accounting for 70 cases was epidemic in June and July, when 62 cases were notified. Additionally there were 4 cases of Scarlet Fever—3 in January, and 8 cases of Pneumonia during the year. The only 2 deaths from infectious disease were ascribed to Pneumonia.

Immunisation against Diphtheria. Age group records of immunisation in relation to child population are not available for any considerable period. These records will be slowly compiled as the years pass. Meantime the record for 1948 is appended.

Under 1	1 +	2 +	3 +	4 +	5—9	10—14	Total
5	18	2	1	1	—	—	27

Booster doses—25

Tuberculosis.

There were two notifications (male) and 2 deaths (1 male and 1 female) from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. No case or death from non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified. One case was admitted to a Sanatorium during the year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1948.

Monthly Incidence of Notifications.

Disease.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	8
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anterior Polio-myelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	2	—	4	37	25	1	—	1	—	—	70
Whooping Cough ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pemphigus Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Monthly Totals ...	3	2	3	2	4	38	26	3	—	3	—	1	85

Notification of, and Deaths from, Infectious Diseases, 1948.

Disease Notified.	AGE GROUPS											Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1 Year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 and over		
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	—	2
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anterior Polio-myelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	3	6	6	14	12	25	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pemphigus Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	4	7	6	14	12	28	4	1	—	1	5	3	2	2

REPORT ON THE SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1948.

Compiled by the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. W. H. Plummer),
who is also the Council's Surveyor.

Water Supply.

Water is distributed by Bradford Corporation and is collected on the Thornton Moor Catchment Area, the greater portion of which lies within the Denholme Urban District. Out of a total of 944 dwelling-houses no less than 903 have a piped supply. The remainder, being in the outlying districts, rely on springs and wells which give a fairly good supply.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The whole of the built-up area is serviced with main sewers which gravitate to two sewage works. One at Doe Park deals with an estimated D.W.F. of 41,250 gallons per day. The other, of more modern construction, at Whalley Lane, deals with an estimated D.W.F. of 7,875 gallons per day.

A report has been prepared on the condition of the Sewage Works at Doe Park, as a result of which further investigations are being made by a Consultant Engineer.

The sparsely populated southern end of the district is unsewered. A number of houses have drain connections to septic tanks.

Rivers and Streams.

One small stream, formed mostly from the reservoir overflow, remains comparatively free from pollution.

Closet Accommodation.

Total number of closets	....	....	....	....	1025
Total number of fresh water closets	....	....	....	....	889
Percentage of closets on water carriage system	....	....	....	....	86.7
Number of privies with open middens	....	....	....	....	4
Number of pail or tub closets	....	....	....	....	80

Number of waste water closets	....	....	....	....	17
Number of privies reconstructed as W.C.s	....	....	....	....	1
Number of closets other than privies reconstructed as W.C.s	....	....	....	....	Nil
Number of privies reconstructed as pail closets	....	....	....	....	Nil
Number of water closets constructed in new houses	....	....	....	....	20
Number of chemical closets	....	....	....	....	6
Number of additional closets provided	....	....	....	....	3

Public Cleansing.

The scavenging of the district was carried out by the Council's workmen with hired team labour. A weekly collection from bins and pails is maintained, and privies are emptied every 14 to 21 days. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at the Council's two tips. The total annual cost of this service was £653 3s. 10d.

Salvage continued to play an important part in the Council's scavenging service, the collections amounting to:—

Waste paper	....	....	....	22 tons
Food waste	....	....	....	15½ tons
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	3 tons

The total value of salvage sold was £173.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following is a tabular statement of inspections made:—

Inspections for nuisances in 1948	....	....	....	....	810
Nuisances found	....	....	....	....	31
Nuisances in hand at end of year 1947	....	....	....	....	3
Total needing abatement	....	....	....	....	34
Nuisances abated in 1948	....	....	....	....	28
Nuisances outstanding at end of 1948	....	....	....	....	6
Informal notices served	....	....	....	....	31
Informal notices complied with	....	....	....	....	25
Statutory notices served	....	....	....	....	Nil
Statutory notices complied with	....	....	....	....	Nil

Inspections of:—

Manure middenstalls	....	....	....	....	....	12
Refuse receptacles	....	....	....	....	....	90
Offensive trades	....	....	....	....	....	12
Piggeries	....	....	....	....	....	30
Knacker's yard	....	....	....	....	....	12
Horse Slaughterhouse	....	....	....	....	....	212
Verminous and dirty premises	....	....	....	....	....	2
Rodent control	....	....	....	....	....	25
Drainage works	....	....	....	....	....	35
Places of entertainment	....	....	....	....	....	2

Summary of Sanitary Works executed.

New drains laid and tested (water test)	....	....	....	....	90
House drains cleared of obstruction	....	....	....	....	20
Public sewers cleansed	....	....	....	....	12
New lengths of sewer constructed	....	....	....	....	Nil
Drains tested by means of colour	....	....	....	....	13
Inspection chambers provided	....	....	....	....	15
Eaves gutters, repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	35
Fall pipes fixed	....	....	....	....	30
Sinks provided	....	....	....	....	8
W.C. basins renewed	....	....	....	....	6
Accumulations of offensive matter removed	....	....	....	....	4
Privy pails renewed	....	....	....	....	3
Dustbins provided	....	....	....	....	20
Disused ashplaces demolished	....	....	....	....	Nil

Knacker's Yard.

There is one knacker's yard in the district; 12 visits have been made during the year. The premises are on a farm, and the Rodent Control Division of the W.R.A.E.C. have carried out two poison bait treatments against rat infestation.

Offensive Trades.

The only offensive trade in the district is one of bone boiling. 12 visits have been made during the year.

**Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.
Infestation Order, 1943.**

This work is carried out by one of the Council's workmen under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Test baiting and maintenance treatment was carried out with satisfactory results in respect of the sewers. The Council's tips were also baited. In addition 25 complaints of a minor nature were dealt with.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 13 factories with power and 5 factories without power in the district.

	No.	No. of Inspections.	Notices served.
Factories with power	13	35	Nil
Factories without power	5	9	Nil

Smoke Abatement.

Eight smoke observations have been taken, and in no instance was there any infringement of the Byelaws.

Housing.

The total number of houses in the district is 944. There is an unsatisfied demand for houses, and the Council have building sites available for 22 houses. Out of the first programme of 20 houses 16 have been completed and occupied during the year. A further 10 houses are now under construction.

Housing Statistics.

Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year 1948.

Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts ....	....	25
Number of notices served in respect of repair:—		
(a) Preliminary ....	....	12
(b) Statutory ....	....	Nil
Number of notices complied with ....	....	10
Re-inspections ....	....	20
Visits in connection with issue of Building Licences ....	....	79

Housing defects remedied in 1948.

New floors laid in asphalt	....	....	....	....	....	6
Fireplace renewals	....	....	....	....	....	20
Hot water installations	....	....	....	....	....	3
Baths provided	....	....	....	....	....	3
Repairs to windows	....	....	....	....	....	26
Repairs to doors, cupboards and woodwork	....	....	....	....	....	10
Ventilation of rooms improved	....	....	....	....	....	2
Outer walls re-pointed	....	....	....	....	....	10
Repairs to chimneys	....	....	....	....	....	8
Damp walls remedied	....	....	....	....	....	6

No houses were demolished and no houses were represented for that purpose.

Overcrowding.

9 cases of overcrowding have been relieved during the year. No reliable figure exists as to the number of overcrowded families in the district.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

Registered wholesale milk producers	....	....	....	....	21
Registered retail milk producers	....	....	....	....	4
Registered non-resident purveyors	....	....	....	....	4
Total number of cows	....	....	....	....	408
Total number of cowsheds	....	....	....	....	52
Producers of Accredited Milk	....	....	....	....	7
Producers of Ungraded Milk	....	....	....	....	14
Total number of inspections	....	....	....	....	106
Total number of inspections of cowsheds	....	....	....	....	80

The milk produced is generally of a good standard. The district is elevated, exposed and windswept, and this may account for the fact that most of the stock kept is young. This may be a contributory factor. Methods of production are improving greatly and a number of alterations are being made with a view to obtaining "Accredited" Licences.

Four samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination, of which two were satisfactory and two unsatisfactory.

Ice Cream.

There are two registered manufacturers producing cold mix ice cream, and three registered purveyors.

15 inspections were made and the premises were all in a satisfactory condition.

Food Preparing Premises.

3 premises are registered and were visited on 6 occasions. All were in a satisfactory condition.

Bakehouses.

There are 3 bakehouses in the district. 9 visits were paid and the premises found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Meat Inspections.

There is no public abattoir in the district. One slaughterhouse is licensed for the slaughter of horses for human consumption. 212 inspections were made:—

Condemnations:

Carcases and offal of horses (12) ....	....	....	5822 lbs.
Part carcasses of horses ....	....	....	392 lbs.
Offal ....	....	....	560 lbs.
Canned meat (in shops) ....	....	....	162 lbs.

Other Foods.

The quantity of other foods condemned amounted to 267 lbs.

